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FROM/VON/DE: JOSEPH T. LEONE
DATE/DATUM: 25 February 2003
PAGES/SEITEN: 11 (including cover sheet)

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RESPONSE AFTER FINAL

PLEASE ENTER INTO CASE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. Serial No.: 09/431,451

Group Art Unit: 1650

Filing Date: November 1, 1999

Examiner: Sisson, B.

Applicant: Senapathy, P.

Attorney Docket No.: 34623.005

Title: **METHOD FOR AMPLIFYING SEQUENCES FROM UNKNOWN DNA**

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Attorney Docket No.: 34623.005

Title: METHOD FOR AMPLIFYING SEQUENCES FROM UNKNOWN DNA**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 CFR §1.116**

BOX: AF (BY FAX: 703-872-8307)
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

To the Commissioner:

Responsive to the Final Office Action dated November 25, 2002, the time period for response thereto being set to expire February 25, 2003, Applicant respectfully requests (1) withdrawal of the finality of the Office Action; and (2) favorable reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-26, and 28-29 remain in the case. A complete "clean" set of pending claims is attached hereto for the Examiner's convenience. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Finality of the Office Action:

The Office Action dated November 25, 2002 was made final, with the Office commenting that Applicant's amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection presented in the Final Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that this is not be the case because, adopting the Office's own logic, the present rejection could have been made earlier, based on the language of the claims as they stood prior to the last Office Action.